

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

- 1 1. (Withdrawn) A computer-implemented method comprising:
  - 2 assigning information stored on a computer a plurality of clearance levels;
  - 3 assigning each smart badge within a set of smart badges one of the clearance levels;
  - 4 using a wireless beacon to detect which smart badges are located within a predefined
  - 5 boundary;
  - 6 identifying a lowest clearance level assigned to the smart badges within the boundary;
  - 7 and
  - 8 providing access to that sub-set of the information having a clearance level no higher than
  - 9 the lowest identified clearance level.
- 1 2. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
  - 2 defining those smart badges within the boundary as a set of visible smart badges; and
  - 3 updating the set of visible smart badges in response to a change in smart badge visibility
  - 4 status.
- 1 3. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 2 further comprising:
  - 2 recalculating the lowest clearance level in response to the change in smart badge
  - 3 visibility status.
- 1 4. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 2 further comprising:
  - 2 recording the smart badge visibility status of each smart badge within an activity log.
- 1 5. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein providing includes:
  - 2 providing access to smart badge wearers assigned to the smart badges.
- 1 6. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 2 further comprising:
  - 2 preventing access to the information when the smart badge visibility status is set to
  - 3 invisible for a predetermined timeout.

1    7. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
2       writing data items to the smart badges.

1    8. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 7 further comprising:  
2       pre-reading the data items from the smart badges during idle periods.

1    9. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 further comprising  
2       defining a badge removal confidence level indicating whether each smart badge has been  
3       continuously worn by corresponding assigned smart badge wearers.

1    10. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
2       assigning an expiration period to each of the smart badges; and  
3       de-authenticating and erasing all data stored on a smart badge whose expiration period  
4       has been exceeded.

1    11. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein the using element includes:  
2       configuring the predefined boundary by varying a sensitivity level of the wireless beacon.

1       12. (Withdrawn) A method for context-aware computer management comprising:  
2              assigning database information a plurality of clearance levels;  
3              assigning each smart badge within a set of smart badges one of the clearance levels;  
4              using a wireless beacon to detect which smart badges are located within a predefined  
5              physical boundary;  
6              identifying a lowest clearance level assigned to the smart badges within the boundary;  
7              providing access to that sub-set of the database information having a clearance level no  
8              higher than the lowest identified clearance level on a computer located within the predefined  
9              physical boundary;  
10             defining those smart badges within the boundary as a set of visible smart badges;  
11             updating the set of visible smart badges in response to a change in smart badge visibility  
12             status; and  
13             recalculating the lowest clearance level in response to the change in smart badge  
14             visibility status.

1       13. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium embodying computer program code  
2           for context-aware computer management, comprising:  
3              assigning database information a plurality of clearance levels;  
4              assigning each smart badge within a set of smart badges one of the clearance levels;  
5              using a wireless beacon to detect which smart badges are located within a predefined  
6              physical boundary;  
7              identifying a lowest clearance level assigned to the smart badges within the boundary;  
8              and  
9              providing access to that sub-set of the database information having a clearance level no  
10             higher than the lowest identified clearance level on a computer located within the predefined  
11             physical boundary.

1       14. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 13 further comprising:  
2              defining those smart badges within the boundary as a set of visible smart badges; and  
3              updating the set of visible smart badges in response to a change in smart badge visibility  
4             status.

1    15. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 14 further comprising:  
2                recalculating the lowest clearance level in response to the change in smart badge  
3                visibility status.

1    16. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 13 wherein providing  
2                includes:  
3                providing access to the database information to smart badge wearers assigned to the  
4                smart badges.

1    17. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 14 further comprising:  
2                preventing access to the database when the smart badge visibility status is set to invisible  
3                for a predetermined timeout.

1    18. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 13 further comprising  
2                defining a badge removal confidence level indicating whether each smart badge has been  
3                continuously worn by corresponding assigned smart badge wearers.

1    19. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 13 further comprising:  
2                assigning an expiration period to each of the smart badges; and  
3                de-authenticating and erasing all data stored on a smart badge whose expiration period  
4                has been exceeded.

1    20. (Withdrawn) A system for context-aware computer management comprising:  
2            means for assigning database information a plurality of clearance levels;  
3            means for assigning each smart badge within a set of smart badges one of the clearance  
4        levels;  
5            means for using a wireless beacon to detect which smart badges are located within a  
6        predefined physical boundary;  
7            means for identifying a lowest clearance level assigned to the smart badges within the  
8        boundary;  
9            means for providing access to that sub-set of the database information having a clearance  
10      level no higher than the lowest identified clearance level on a computer located within the  
11      predefined physical boundary;  
12        means for defining those smart badges within the boundary as a set of visible smart  
13      badges;  
14        means for updating the set of visible smart badges in response to a change in smart badge  
15      visibility status; and  
16        means for recalculating the lowest clearance level in response to the change in smart  
17      badge visibility status.

1    21. (Previously Presented) A system for context-aware computer management comprising:  
2            a database, including information differentiated by a plurality of clearance levels;  
3            a first wireless beacon;  
4            a set of smart badges, detected by the first beacon to be within a predefined boundary,  
5        each badge assigned one of the clearance levels;  
6            a computer located within the boundary;  
7            a system service module, coupled to the beacon, for identifying a lowest clearance level  
8        assigned to the smart badges within the boundary; and  
9            a software application, coupled to the service module and the database, for providing  
10      access to that sub-set of the information within the database having a clearance levels no higher  
11      than the lowest identified clearance level on the computer.

1    22. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein the first beacon includes:  
2                a wide angle RF beacon.

1    23. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 21, further comprising:  
2                a second diffuse IR beacon, coupled to the service module, limited to detecting smart  
3                badges within the predefined boundary.

1    24. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein the smart badges include:  
2                biometric sensors for detecting when a smart badge has been removed from an assigned  
3                smart badge wearer.

1    25. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 21, wherein the service module  
2                defines those smart badges within the boundary as a set of visible smart badges, and  
3                recalculates the lowest clearance level in response to a change in a visibility status.

1    26. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 21, wherein the application logs smart badge  
2                wearers assigned to visible smart badges onto the computer.

1    27. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein providing access to the sub-set of  
2                information comprises providing access to the sub-set of information stored on the computer  
3                located within the predefined boundary.

1    28. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein the wireless beacon comprises a first  
2                wireless beacon to communicate with the smart badges, the method further comprising:  
3                using a second wireless beacon to communicate with the smart badges,  
4                wherein detecting which smart badges are located within the predefined boundary is  
5                based on the first and second wireless beacons.

1    29. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 28, wherein using the second wireless beacon  
2    comprises using the second wireless beacon to communicate with smart badges within the  
3    predefined boundary and to communicate with smart badges outside the predefined boundary  
4    through one or more blocking objects defining the predefined boundary, and

5                 using the first wireless beacon comprises using the first wireless beacon to communicate  
6    with smart badges within the predefined boundary, wherein the first wireless beacon is blocked  
7    from communicating with smart badges outside the predefined boundary by the one or more  
8    blocking objects.

1    30. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 29, wherein using the first wireless beacon comprises  
2    using an infrared beacon, and wherein using the second wireless beacon comprises using a radio  
3    frequency beacon.

1    31. (Withdrawn) An article comprising a computer-usuable medium containing program code  
2    that when executed cause a computer to:

3                 store plural sub-sets of information, each sub-set of information associated with one of  
4    plural clearance levels;

5                 use at least a first wireless beacon to communicate with plural badges within a predefined  
6    region, each of the plural badges associated with one of the plural clearance levels;

7                 determine a lowest clearance level from among the clearance levels associated with the  
8    badges in the predefined region; and

9                 provide access to one or more sub-sets of the information having one or more respective  
10   clearance levels no higher than the determined lowest clearance level.

1    32. (Withdrawn) The article of claim 31, wherein providing access to the one or more  
2    sub-sets of the information comprises displaying the one or more sub-sets of the information  
3    having the one or more respective clearance levels no higher than the determined lowest  
4    clearance level.

1 33. (Withdrawn) The article of claim 31, wherein the program code when executed cause the  
2 computer to further:

3       use a second wireless beacon to communicate with the plural badges in the predefined  
4 region and to communicate with one or more badges outside the predefined region,

5       wherein the first wireless beacon is able to communicate with the plural badges within  
6 the predefined region but is unable to communicate with the one or more badges outside the  
7 predefined region; and

8       determining the badges that are within the predefined region based on the first and second  
9 wireless beacons.

1 34. (Withdrawn) The article of claim 31, wherein the program code when executed cause the  
2 computer to further:

3       receive a parameter from each of the badges, the parameter indicating a confidence level  
4 that the respective badge has been worn continuously by a user.

1 35. (Withdrawn) The article of claim 31, wherein the program code when executed cause the  
2 computer to further:

3       re-determine the lowest clearance level as badges enter or leave the predefined region.

1 36. (Withdrawn) A system comprising:

2       storage to store sub-sets of information associated with corresponding plural clearance  
3 levels;

4       a first wireless beacon to communicate wirelessly with badges within a predefined  
5 region, each of the badges associated with one of the plural clearance levels;

6       a module to identify a lowest clearance level from among the clearance levels of the  
7 badges within the predefined region; and

8       software to provide access to one or more sub-sets of information in the storage having  
9 one or more clearance levels no higher than the identified lowest clearance level.

1    37. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 36, further comprising:  
2                 a second wireless beacon to communicate wirelessly with badges within the predefined  
3                 region and at least one badge outside the predefined region,  
4                 wherein the first wireless beacon is unable to communicate with the at least one badge  
5                 outside the predefined region,  
6                 the module to detect the badges that are within the predefined region based on the first  
7                 and second wireless beacons.

1    38. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 37, wherein the second wireless beacon comprises a  
2                 radio frequency beacon, and the first wireless beacon comprises an infrared beacon.